



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2015

MEDIA CONTACTS

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New Design for Parking at Manitou Beach Drive Incorporates Community Input

Bainbridge Island, Wash., (May, 2015) At the City Council Study Session on June 2, City staff will present an updated design to provide public parking and better public access at Manitou Beach.

Over the last few months, the City has been considering providing a small gravel parking area across from Manitou Beach on Manitou Beach Drive for the purpose of increasing visual and physical access to the waterfront. This project was endorsed by the City Council in December, 2014. The City hosted a public meeting to discuss features of the proposed parking area on Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30 pm. After the public meeting City staff worked to incorporate the input received into the redesign of the project.

The proposed design includes a small parking lot with four stalls, two bike racks and a boardwalk that can be used to provide a safe and accessible connection to the beach. The location of the small parking lot has been shifted toward the front of the site in the current design to respond to citizens' desires to have an increased buffer between the lot and the neighboring wetlands, as well as to provide for increased accessibility and visibility. Two bikes racks will now be available at the site for those that wish to secure their bikes and enjoy the beach. Additionally, the City will construct a boardwalk that will provide safe and easy access to the beach. Currently, visitors to Manitou Beach must traverse a ditch in order reach the public shoreline. The boardwalk will make the beach more easily accessed by all residents, as well as those that wish to use the beach to launch hand-carried watercraft.

At the Council meeting on June 2, Council is being asked to decide whether to move forward with construction of the project in the coming months. To stay informed on the project visit the City website at www.bainbridgewa.gov, click on *Notify Me*, and choose the Manitou Beach Drive Parking Project option. Members of the public that are not able to attend the meeting on Tuesday, June 2, can submit questions or comments in advance to Mark Epstein, Engineering Project Manager, at mepstein@bainbridgewa.gov or 206.780.3721.



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